



## Phinehas G. Valenti

July 9, 1927 - December 11, 2018

Phinehas G. Valenti, 91, of New Britain, beloved husband of Rebecca (Raimondo) Valenti, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. Born on July 9, 1927, in New Britain to the late Giovanni and Vincenza (Augiello) Valenti, Phinehas began working at Fafnir Bearings, after his graduation from New Britain High School in 1945. He met the love of his life, Rebecca, at the Bethel Alliance church as they were childhood sweethearts, and were married for 71 years. He attended the Juilliard School of Music and became the Music Minister, organist, pianist and choir director at Bethel where he volunteered his time and talents for over 60 years. While still working at Fafnir Bearings, he began to build his private piano student clientele where it grew and thrived as he taught many generations of young people in New Britain and surrounding towns. He also studied the technique of piano tuning and repair, and was the piano tuner for the New Britain School system, and tuner throughout the Greater Hartford area both privately and for organizations. He was also a frequent performer for many charity events in the area. He was a member of the Piano Technicians Guild and served as the President for the Rhode Island Chapter.

A frequent charity performer at functions for the New Britain General Hospital (now Hospital for Special Care.) At the age of 72, he partnered with the Cancer Center and recorded a special "Hymns of Praise" CD, that features his own arrangements of hymns and classical pieces which he recorded himself, teaching himself the technology necessary to do so, all being performed on a

Steinway Grand Piano that he rebuilt. He always was available to donate his time and talent to churches who were in need of an organist and pianist: First Baptist Church of Plainville, and the Bethany Covenant Church in Berlin (all of this while he was "semi retired") He loved spending time at his home in Rhode Island enjoying leisure and family time, especially with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, his children Matthew Valenti and his wife Barbara, of New Hartford; Celeste Sherman and her husband Stuart of Bristol; Cheryl Hilton and her husband Robert of East Hampton.

His grandchildren: Heather Erin Johnson, Maura Valenti, Amanda Sherman, Abby Sherman, and Robert Hilton, jr. His great grandchildren: Faith and Jack Johnson. His sisters: Dinah Raimondo, and Priscilla Dombroski, along with many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his sister, Lois Adorno. The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 20th, from 4- 7 pm, at the Carlson Funeral Home , 45 Franklin Square in New Britain, and the celebration of his life will take place on Friday, December 21, at 11:00 am, also at Carlson's Funeral home. For directions or condolences, please visit [Carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://Carlsonfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

120 Smalley Street  
New Britain, CT 06051

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

DEC **20**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home  
45 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
(860) 225-6361  
carlsonfh@aol.com  
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

DEC **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home  
45 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
(860) 225-6361  
carlsonfh@aol.com  
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Mr Valenti was my piano teacher when I was young and I learned so very much from him  
He taught me the love of music. Also he was a fine pianist and on the occasion when I  
heard him play the piano his technique was superior. I remember how wonderful of a  
teacher he was and I feel truly blessed to have known him at such a young age. He  
taught me how to use the metotrom and improvisation. He will be missed by  
me and everyone whose lives he touched. He was an asset to the music community.  
With deepest heartfelt sympathy  
Joan Arena Fucini*

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**Joan Arena Fucini** - December 20, 2018 at 07:43 PM

CH

*Thank you so much Joan for sharing the beautiful memories of my dad.  
So very sweet of you!  
Thank you,  
Cheryl Valenti Hilton*

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**Cheryl Hilton** - January 06, 2019 at 06:01 PM

TJ

“ *He was my piano and organ teacher. I played at recitals and was featured. He was the only teacher to allow me and encouraged me to improvise. I will miss him and I'm grateful for the blessing he was to my life.*

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**Timothy Maurice Johnson** - December 20, 2018 at 05:31 PM

CH

*Thank you Timmy! You were a wonderful student of dad's and we always loved listening to you!! Thank you for your beautiful thoughts!*

*Love,  
Cheryl*

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**Cheryl Hilton** - January 06, 2019 at 06:02 PM

MM

*“ Sincere condolences to the entire Valenti family. "Uncle Phine & Aunt Ruby" will always have a special place in my heart! So many happy childhood memories of our time with the Valenti family! So much talent passed on to the children. A real gift!*

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**Maria Mozzicato** - December 19, 2018 at 07:48 AM

CH

*Maria,  
We have such wonderful memories of your family too. Thank you so much for sharing that!!*

*Love,  
Cheri*

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**Cheryl Hilton** - January 06, 2019 at 06:04 PM

RD

*“ You are missed in our piano world.  
Ruth Van Dine, President of Rhode Island Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

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**Ruth Van Dine** - December 19, 2018 at 06:15 AM

CH

*Ruth, I thank you so much for your comment, and dad always enjoyed his time with the Rhode Island Chapter. I have fond memories of his stories when he would come home from meetings! He enjoyed it so much, and enjoyed working with David many hours rebuilding the Steinway!*

*Thank you again for your thoughts!*

*Cheri Valenti Hilton*

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**Cheryl Hilton** - January 06, 2019 at 06:07 PM

LS

“*I just learned that Mr. Valenti passed away. He was my piano teacher for 4 years starting at age ten. I remember the annual recitals at CCSU, and walking up on that stage to play the huge grand piano! These lessons led to a lifetime of my playing piano for school choirs, church bible schools and other musical productions, as well as my own enjoyment. Thank you for giving me a solid start!*

*Linda Simmons*

*East Hampton, CT*

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**Linda M Simmons** - December 17, 2018 at 11:00 AM

CH

*Thank you so much Linda, for sharing those memories! I'm so glad that dad's teaching in your early years has given you such a lifetime of enjoyment. Thank you for sharing!*

*Cheryl Valenti Hilton*

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**Cheryl Hilton** - January 06, 2019 at 06:12 PM

LL

“ *It was always a treat to have our pianos tuned by Phinehas because he would play some of his beautiful arrangements for us afterward. We will always remember his piano and organ playing at our wedding in 1995, along with Celeste on the violin and Stu on the trumpet. And we loved hearing him play at First Baptist in Plainville. Our hearts and prayers are with you as you remember and celebrate your father and the wonderful legacy he left to you and his community.*

*Lori Little and Jan Stoothoff  
Ed and Millie Little*

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**Lorene Little** - December 16, 2018 at 08:09 PM

CH

*Thank you Lori, I think many people enjoyed him tuning their pianos because he would play afterward!  
Thank you for sharing your memories!  
Cheri*

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**Cheryl Hilton** - January 06, 2019 at 06:13 PM

BW

“ *I'm sorry to read. Of Mr Valent's recent passing. He taught me piano for 6 years. I remember the recitals at the auditorium CCSC and I got to play on a Steinway concert Grand Piano!!!! He was a taskmaster but also a patient and gentle teacher who understood his young students. I'm grateful he was a part of my early life..and that he gave me the gift of music.*

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**Bob Witkowski** - December 16, 2018 at 12:33 PM

CH

*Thank you so much Bob, for your thoughts and remembrances! (I too remember those recitals, with some trepidation!!) Beautiful thoughts and memories of my dad!*

*Thank you so much!*

*Cheryl Valenti Hilton*

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**Cheryl Hilton** - January 06, 2019 at 06:10 PM